

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089114
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DRAFTED BY EA R :S V F

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089114

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINT, SREF

SUBJECT:EA/ROC WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. PRESBYTERIANS CONTINUE TO DEFY ROC (CONFIDENTIAL)

IGNORING ROC WARNINGS NOT TO "MEDDLE" IN POLITICS, THE TAIWANESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK PASSED A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING ITS "DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" WHICH ADVOCATES INDEPENDENCE FOR TAIWAN. THE ASSEMBLY ALSO RE-ELECTED AS ITS SECRETARY GENERAL THE AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION DESPITE ROC WARNINGS THAT IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO SEEK RE-ELECTION. AT THE MOMENT THE PRESBYTERIANS AND THE GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO BE IN AN UNSTABLE STAND-OFF WITH CHURCH LEADERS COUNTING ON AN ENHANCED ROLE ON TAIWAN AND THE ROC UNDOUBTEDLY SURVEYING THE OPTIONS OPEN TO IT FOR DEALING WITH THE PRESBYTERIANS.

2. REFUGEES (CONFIDENTIAL)

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THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE ROC'S FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON REFUGEES AND IT IS LESS FORTHCOMING THAN PREMIER CHIANG'S COMMENTS LED US TO BELIEVE. APPARENTLY

THE NEW POLICY WILL NOT PERMIT ANY APPRECIABLE NUMBER OF REFUGEES TO RESETTLE IN TAIWAN, ALTHOUGH THE ROC HAS AGREED TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE HOSPITABLE TO BOAT CASE

REFUGEES WHO REACH TAIWAN, ESPECIALLY ETHNIC CHINESE WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO RESETTLE. WHILE WILLING TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM BOAT AND LAND REFUGEES IN THAILAND, THE ROC HAS REAFFIRMED THE STRICT CRITERIA THAT ALL ALONG HAVE PREVENTED THE REFUGEES IN THAILAND FROM RESETTLING IN TAIWAN. THE ROC'S STATED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SOME EXCEPTIONS TO THESE CRITERIA MAY ALLOW A FEW TO RESETTLE. THE PROGRAM FOR REPATRIATING ETHNIC CHINESE FROM SAIGON WILL CONTINUE. WE WILL CONSIDER WHAT NEXT STEPS, IF ANY, TO TAKE AFTER RECEIVING THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT.

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Message Attributes

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